

Orders conceiued by the Lordes of her Maiesties

375

Priuie Counſel, and by her Highneſſe ſpecial direction, commanded to be put in execution for the reſtraint of killing, and eating of fleſh this next Lent, and to be executed aſwell by the Lord Maior within the Citie and Suburbs of London, and by the officers of the Liberties and exempt places in and about the ſame, as by order to be preſcribed by the Lords Lieutenants of all the Counties of the Realme, to the Juſtices of Peace, Lords of Liberties, & Officers of corporate Townes.

¶ 26. Febr. xl. yeere of the Queenes Maieſties Reigne.



First, her Maieſties pleaſure is, vpon her vnderſtanding of the great diſorders heretofore, and eſpecially the laſt Lent, committed in killing and eating fleſh in the time of Lent, eſpecially in the Citie of London, and the liberties thereto adioyning, that the Statute made in the fiſt yeere of her Maieſties Reigne for the reſtraint thereof, be put in due execution by the way of Inquiſition, and charge of Iuries, or by any other good meanes, both within the citie and all other places requiſite within the Realme, and this to be executed with more diligence then heretofore it hath bene.

2 And for the better knowledge of the trueth of theſe diſorders, and redreſſe of the inconueniences, the ſayd Iuries ſhall call before them, and ſend for any of the Seruants of any Inholders, Victuallers, Lauerners, and Keepers of Ordinarie Tables, and ſuch other that vtter Victuals, to examine them vpon their corporall othes, what fleſh is, or hath bene during the Lent ſeaſon, dreſſed, killed, vttered or eaten in their houſes, which if they ſhall reſuſe to doe, then they ſhall make knowen the ſame to the Alderman or his Deputie of that Ward, who ſhall commit to priſon the ſaid ſeruants, ſo reſuſing vpon their oaths to declare the trueth.

3 And becauſe a great part of this diſorder groweth by the Butchers of the Citie of London, and alſo of the Countrey, that ſecretly kill, and bring Fleſh to the Citie: there ſhall be onely eight Butchers liſenced by the Lord Maior to kill Fleſh within the ſayd Citie and Liberties thereof, without paying any thing for their licence, becauſe they ſhall be bound in reaſonable ſummes of money, to obſerue ſuch order as ſhall be preſcribed to them.

4 And euery of theſe Butchers to bee ſo liſenced, ſhall be firſt bound with two Sureties in good ſummes of money to her Maieſties vſe, viz. the principall in one hundred pound, the Sureties euery of them to be bound in fortie pound, (and the Bonds to be certified to the Queenes Remembrancer in the Exchequer) to ſell no Fleſh in the time of Lent, but to ſuch perſons as ſhall ſhew them ſpecial Warrant from the Lord Maior, vnder his hand, and that the Butchers doe preſiſely obſerue the proportion allowed them by the Lord Maior and ſpecified in their bond Weekly, not exceeding in any weeke twentie Sheepe, twentie Calues, and thirtie Lambes.

5 That the Lord Maior giue order to theſe Butchers not to ſell any Fleſh but at reaſonable prizes, and for that purpoſe the prizes ſhall be ſet downe by the ſayd Lord Maior, ſuch as may bee reaſonable both for the Buier and Seller: and if the Butcher ſhall breake that order, then to be forthwith diſcharged and committed to priſon, and another put into his place, and his bond to bee certified into the Exchequer to the Queenes benefite

6 That the Lord Maior himſelfe ſhall grant no Warrant for buying of fleſh in Lent, but to ſuch as ſhall haue or ſhewe to him licence in Writing according to the Lawes of the Realme, to eat fleſh, and the ſame licence to be viewed and regiſtered, by ſome two meete perſons to be appointed for this purpoſe by the Lord Maior, and Bookes to be kept thereof, to be ſhewed further when the ſame ſhall be required, vnleſſe it be to Embaſſadours and Agents of foraine Princes, to whom notwithstanding no further quantitie ſhall be allowed, then ratably for their owne houſholde, and that ſuch Embaſſadours and Agents ſhall giue to the Lord Maior a Certificate Weekly what they ſhall require to bee for their owne Tables.

7 That the Lord Maior ſhal now preſently before Lent, cauſe al Inne-houlders, Table keepers, Victualers, Alehouſe-keepers, and Lauernors within the Citie and liberties thereof, to appeare before him, or ſuch perſons as he ſhall appoint meete for that purpoſe, and ſhall take Bonds with Suerties of euery of them, in good ſummes of money, viz. one hundred pound the Principall, and the Suerties xxx. pound a piece to her Maieſties vſe, not to dreſſe any fleſh in their houſes this Lent time for any reſpect, nor ſuffer it to be eaten, except it be for ſome ſuch perſon that lieth in their houſe, and that alſo hath Licence through ſickenefſe, or other neceſſarie cauſe to eat fleſh. Bonds ſhall be taken alſo of the Poulters, not to vtter any Poultrie Ware, but to ſuch as ſhall be likewise liſenced to eat fleſh, and that ſuch as will not giue ſuch Bonds, that they be ſecluded from all vtterance of Victuall during the Lent ſeaſon, excepting thoſe Poulters that doe ordinarily ſerue her Maieſties houſehold, of whom like Bonds ſhall be taken by her Maieſties Officers of the Greencloth.

8 And for the Butchers and others that come with Victuals of flesh out of the Countrey to the Citie, the L. Maior shall cause certaine persons to watch at the Gates, and other like places in the Suburbes where flesh may be brought in, to viewe and search, and to intercept the same. The Carriers of the said Victuals of flesh, if any shalbe taken, to be guided to the persons houses that haue Licence, with regard therein not to be abused, and this watch to be continued dayly during the whole time of Lent, and if any of these watchmen be found negligent and corrupt in his charge, then hee to be committed to prison, there to continue during the whole Lent. And in case the same shall bee found to bee brought to any person not warranted or licensed to eat it as is aforesaid, then the same to bee forfeited and solde at the discretion of the L. Maior for the vse of the poore, in the hospitals and prisons in the Citie, and the bringers to be imprisoned.

9 And that there may be due execution of the said Orders, as well without as within the Liberties of the Citie, it is thought convenient that they that haue the chiefe charge over the places priuiledged and exempt, where any Leetes, or Lawdayes are kept, shall authorize vnder their hand and seale iii. persons as are aboue mentioned, to make search within the said priuiledged and exempt places, for such as shall transgresse the said Orders, and shall for their trauaile therein employed, receiue the moytie of the Bonds forfeited, as is aboue mentioned. And for the auoyding of corruption and partialitie in the said persons, it shall be necessary to take their oathes, and giue Bond in some good and large summes, to see as much as in them lyeth, a due obseruation of the said Orders.

10 And for that it is to bee doubted that the Fishmongers vpon the obseruation of the sayd Orders, will take occasion thereby to inhance the prizes as well of Fresh, as of Sea fish, it is thought meete that the Lord Maior shall take order with the sayd Fishmongers, that as well the Salt as Fresh fish, shall be vttered at reasonable prizes.

11 And it is ordered that no Butchers shall kill any Beeces, but such as shall be specially licenced thereunto without any fraud, for the furnishing of such Ships as shall be lawfully imployed by Sea, either in the way of Traffique, or otherwise.

12 Further also, that a true Certificate be weekly made by the Lord Maior, and by him sent to the Lordes and others of her Maiesties Priue Counsell, euery Saturday within the Lent time, of the iust number of Buttons, Veales and Lambes, which are weekly killed within the Citie and Liberties thereof, that their Honors may know whether the propoztion allowed and set downe to be weekly killed by such Butchers as are licenced to kill flesh, be duly obserued. The like Certificate is to be made by the head Officers or such other as are appointed to keepe order in the out places. The like Certificate is to be made and deliuered in, of all Innholders, Table keepers, Victuallers, Alehouse keepers and Tauerneers, who shall be found to dresse, eate, or sell flesh within their houses, contrary to the orders befoze specified.

13 And as these orders are expressly deuised to be executed in the Citie of London and places neere to the same, so her Maiesties pleasure and commandement is, that the execution of these, or like orders be perfozmed by the commandement of her Maiesties Lieutenants, to be sent to the Iustices of Peace in all Shires within their Rule, and to all other Officers in Townes corporate, or in any Liberties, with like order for Bonds to be taken to her Maiesties vse.

¶ The seuerall prices of Mutton, Veale and Lambe, tolerated to be killed and solde by licensed Butchers to licensed persons this time of Lent. Anno Dom. 1597.

Viz. The Carcas of the best sort of Mutton at xv.s. or vnder, and by ioynts and pieces after the same rate.

The second sort of Mutton at xiii.s. iiii.d. and by ioyntes or pieces after that rate.

The third sort of Mutton at x.s. or vnder, and by ioynts or pieces after that rate.

The carcas of the best sort of Lambe at iiii.s. viii.d. or vnder, and by ioynts or pieces after the same rate.

The second sort of Lambe at iiii.s. or vnder, and by ioynts or pieces after the same rate.

The thirde sort of Lambe at iii.s. iiii.d. or vnder, and by ioynts or pieces after the same rate.

The carcas of the best sort of veale at xv.s. or vnder, and by ioynts or pieces after that rate.

The second sort of veale at xiii.s. or vnder, and by ioynts or pieces after that rate.

The thirde sort of veale at xi.s. or vnder, and so by ioynts or pieces after that rate.

¶ Imprinted at London by the Deputies of Christopher Barker, Printer to the Queenes most excellent Maiestic. Anno Dom. 1597.